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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENTS AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SHI-027

Applicant : Yasuhide Nakayama et al.  
Title : PROCESS FOR PRODUCING STENT  
Serial No. : 10/525,016  
Filed : July 25, 2005  
Group Art Unit : 3774  
Examiner : Jonathan R. Stroud

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 16, 2010

RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION

Sir:

On page 2 of the final Action of November 17, 2009, claims 25-31 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-299901 (Takehisa) in view of Edwin.

However, claims pending in the application are patentable over the cited references, as explained below.

It was held on page 2, line 4 from the bottom to page 3, line 4 of the final Action that "Takehisa discloses a method for preparing a stent matrix such as the one discussed in the abstract, comprising preparing a tubular stent matrix, 10, forming flexible solid polymer layers on the stent matrix, 19, and perforating a plurality of fine through pores at portion only where the stent matrix does not exist, fig. 2; wherein forming the layers comprises a step of forming a polymer film by impregnating a mandrel into a liquid resin material, para, [0016], for forming the polymer film